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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,698	01/02/2004	William D. Cottrell	8534-001	3826
4678	7590	11/20/2006	EXAMINER	
MACCORD MASON PLLC 300 N. GREENE STREET, SUITE 1600 P. O. BOX 2974 GREENSBORO, NC 27402			EDELL, JOSEPH F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3636	

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/750,698	<b>Applicant(s)</b> COTTRELL ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Joseph F. Edell	<b>Art Unit</b> 3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-27 and 29-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-27 and 29-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Applicant informed Examiner that the claims submitted with the Request of Continued Examination of 14 December 2005 were identical to the claims submitted in the amendment after final rejection of 14 November 2005. As set forth in MPEP § 706.07(a), the finality of the rejection of 23 May 2006 was premature as the amendment after final rejection of 14 November 2005 was not entered for requiring further search and consideration. Therefore, the finality of the rejection has been withdrawn, and Applicant's amendment of 27 October 2006 will be entered and considered herein.

#### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 17, 33, and 34 are objected to because of the following informalities:
  - a. claims 17, lines 2-3, and 34, lines 2-3, "said first post and said second post" should read --said at least one post and said second post--;
  - b. claim 33, line 2, "and a distance" should read --at a distance--
  - c. claim 34, line 1, "claim-33" should read --claim 33--.

Appropriate correction is required.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,092,705 to Merritt.

Merritt discloses a vehicle mounted peripheral device station that includes all the limitations recited in claims 1 and 11. Merritt shows a vehicle mounted peripheral device station having a vehicle seat (see Fig. 4) adapted to receive a removable headrest, a peripheral device 16 (see Fig. 8), an adaptor (case of Fig. 18), and a means for securing the peripheral device to the adaptor (page 10, lines 2-4 of instant application teaches the means for securing is a hook and loop fastener).

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-27, 29-31, and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,883,870 B2 to Jost in view of Merritt.

Jost discloses a vehicle mounted peripheral device station that is basically the same as that recited in claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-27, 29-31, and 33-36 except that the specified means for securing is not taught, as recited in the claims. See Figures 1-6 of Jost for the teaching that the vehicle mounted peripheral device station has a vehicle

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seat 7 (see Fig. 3) adapted to receive a removable headrest, a peripheral device 8 (see Fig. 2), an adaptor 12,14, and a means for securing the peripheral device to the adaptor being clamping of the peripheral device (see column 2, lines 28-31), a support surface 14 attached to the adapter that is a plate with a plurality of edges and a plurality of side walls to frictionally receive the peripheral device, the plurality of side walls including a front wall, a first side wall, a second side wall, and a non continuous back wall, first and second receptacles 20,20 in the seat to receive first and second posts 6,6 of the adaptor wherein at least one of the post is adjustable to modify the distance between the post, and at least one post is capable of vertical pivoting about an axis formed along sleeve 19. See Diagram A below showing that at least one of the plurality of side walls of Jost is noncontinuous and by portions of the front wall being removed the overall height of the wall is reduced.

Merritt shows a vehicle mounted peripheral device station similar to Jost wherein the adaptor 1,13 (see Fig. 1) and peripheral device 2 are secured via hook and loop fasteners. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the station of Jost such that the means for securing the peripheral device to the adaptor is hook and loop fasteners, such as the station disclosed by Merritt. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art that hook and loop fasteners are inexpensive fasteners that allow the two structural piece to be repeatedly attached and detached from one another.

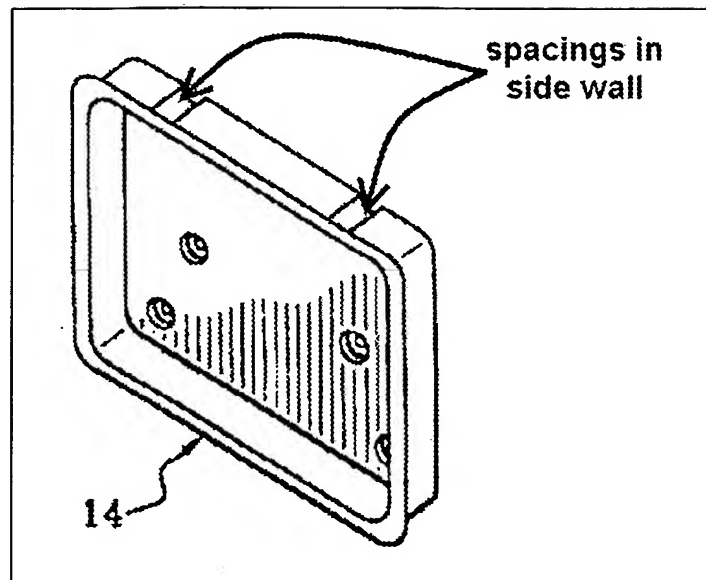


Diagram A - Annotated Figure 3 of Jost

6. Claims 14 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jost in view of Merritt as applied to claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-27, 29-31, and 33-36 above, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/023455 A1 to Brooks et al.

Jost, as modified, discloses a vehicle mounted peripheral device station that is basically the same as that recited in claims 14 and 32 except that the peripheral device lacks a printer, as recited in the claims. Brooks et al. shows a peripheral device similar to that of Jost wherein the peripheral device includes a visual displaying device 72 (see Fig. 4) with a printer 92. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the station of Jost such that the peripheral device includes a printer, such as the peripheral device disclosed in Brooks et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification

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in view of the suggestion in Brooks et al. that the peripheral device with a printer that communicates with a DVD playing computer display.

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9, 11-27, and 29-36 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to vehicle mounted peripheral device stations:

U.S. Pat. No. 6,698,832 B2 to Boudinot U.S. Pat. No. 7,070,237 B2 to Rochel

FR Pat. No. 2 882 012 A1 to Goupil

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Edell whose telephone number is (571) 272-6858. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm.

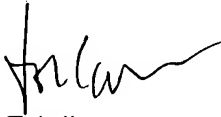
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic  
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Edell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joe Edell  
November 16, 2006